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Title: Need to announce relief measures for poultry industry in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): In Tamil Nadu - in Erode, Coimbatore and Namakkal districts, the farmers are mainly dependent on poultry industry and the livelihood of majority of them are mainly through the earnings from this industry.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

Poultry Industry had suffered huge losses during the outbreak of 'Bird Flu' in 2006 at Navpur (Maharashtra). On 14th January 2008, an official announcement was made about the outbreak of Bird Flu in Birbhum District of West Bengal. This announcement has once again thrown the growing industry into doll-drums.

Though West Bengal was affected by the deadly Bird Flu, the actual sufferer was poultry producers in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh because the country's 50% production is accounted by these two States. After 14-01-2008, the exports were totally stopped and the consignments were destroyed at the airports. The broiler prices have fallen to Rs. 20 which were selling at Rs. 35 - Rs. 40. The consumption has fallen down by 40% even in the unaffected parts of India. The feed prices have gone up by 30% in spite of a very good crop of maize and soya due to the continued export of these raw materials of poultry feed.

To protect the poultry industry, Government of India has to announce two year moratorium or holiday period on Repayment of Principal Loan Amounts, Conversion of Working Capital into Working Capital Term Loan to be paid off in 5 years starting after one year by reducing interest rate to six per cent. Sanction of fresh working capital to a Ipoultry units so as to resume its normal production. The feed requirement of Maize may be subsidized by Rs. 6-/ per Kg. and the amount may be paid directly to the farmers.

Hence, I humbly urge the Hon'ble Finance Minister to take steps to save the interests of poultry industry and the farmers engaged in poultry farming in the country.